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NOFORN/CONTINUED CONTROL

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D/S

CURRENT SUPPORT MEMORANDUM

HEAVY AIR RAID SHELTERS IN RIGA

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This report represents the immediate views of the originating intelligence components of the Office of Research and Reports. Comments are solicited.

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HEAVY AIR RAID SHELTERS IN RIGA

Construction has been going on for several years in Riga to provide a number of substantial refuges against air attack for governmental, communications, and military offices. It is logical to suspect, despite sketchy information, that additional important administrative or industrial cities are being provided with air raid shelters--heavier than the basement type--for the protection of important offices and personnel.

Construction in Riga of a large "atomic" shelter for the Latvian Council of Ministers has been confirmed. A complex of buildings was built above and around the shelter which, in case of an atomic attack, is allegedly limited to high ranking government officials. 1/ Another confirmed heavy shelter is located in the "1905" Park. This underground command post, completed in 1954 or 1955, 2/ is reported to have an independent power and water supply, communication facilities, a special medical room, and an estimated capacity of 1,000 persons. 3/

Other heavy shelters in Riga probably include a bunker under construction (May 1958) in a park area near the State Opera House, 4/ a bunker under construction close by the Riga hospital, 5/ and an underground bunker in the suburb Milgravis. 6/

The source who supplied a photograph of the Milgravis bunker stated there were about ten such bunkers in Riga and five or six more outside the city. Another informant said that air raid shelters have been built outside the city for the evacuation of the urban population. Located in three wooded or park areas North and East of the city, they are allegedly equipped with seating accommodations, a few beds (presumably for sick persons and infants), one week's supply of food, and some medical and sanitary equipment. 7/

The Hungarian crisis in 1956, according to a defector, precipitated defense preparations in Riga. Existing air raid shelters were cleaned and repaired and new shelters were built. 8/ The construction of air raid shelters under new public buildings and apartment houses in Riga is apparently continuing. 9/

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Analysts:



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Coord:

Sources:

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